

# THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

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20 JUNE 1962

~~TOP SECRET~~



1. Communist China

Ground and air movements into the Foochow-Amoy area continued yesterday.

[redacted] "war preparations" and mobilization of reserves; there are some indications that civilians are being evacuated from the coastal area.

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2. Thailand

The King of Thailand [redacted] calling publicly for even tempers on the temple issue [redacted] to hold back the hotheads. Ambassador Young suspects that the announcement of a boycott of the Geneva conference and SEATO meetings is a device to release pressures and win time for the government to work its way out of its quandary.

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3. Brazil

President Goulart will probably propose that foreign minister Dantas be moved up to prime minister. The nomination is certain to encounter conservative opposition in the Brazilian congress but stands a fair chance of going through. US officials in Rio are not enthusiastic about the prospect. They rate Dantas head-and-shoulders above the present prime minister, Tancredo Neves, in skill and effectiveness, but consider him a political trimmer and something of a demagogue. He was a Fascist in the 30's but now stands on the left wing of Goulart's Labor party and has sought and received Communist backing for the prime ministry.

4. Moscow lowers  
draft age

The Soviet government has reduced the draft registration age from 18 to 17. This will probably be followed by the lowering of the induction age to 18 from the present 19. We think this measure results directly from the sharp decline in birth rate during World War II. (The number of 19 year-old males has fallen from 2.4 million in 1958 to about one million this year.) By inducting two classes in one year, the Soviets will hold their forces at the present levels.

5. Argentina

President Guido is facing a new crisis in the form of heavy pressure from a hard-line military faction which wants him to move further to the right in domestic policy. Guido is ready to reshuffle his cabinet to placate the group, [redacted]

[redacted] but [redacted]  
[redacted] not sure this will  
be enough to avert a move to supplant him.

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6. Laos

The argument over whether the National Assembly will be mentioned in the King's investiture decree continued through yesterday. Souvanna has also taken exception to what he believes to be an implication in the decree, as it now stands, that his coalition government will have only nominal authority until military and administrative integration of the opposing factors has been achieved. Phoumi is being urged by Brown--and even by the King--to give in on these points.

7. South Vietnam -  
Cambodia

[redacted] 50X1  
Canadian representative on the ICC, the commission's investigation [redacted] 50X1  
[redacted] Cambodia's charge that South 50X1  
Vietnamese forces violated the Cambodia border last Saturday and that the incursion resulted in Cambodian civilian casualties--three, according to the preliminary report. Our Embassy in Saigon reports that there were three US military advisors and three US newsmen with the South Vietnamese who were in pursuit of suspected Viet Cong elements. Witnesses to the incidents are reporting the presence of "white men" and we take it for granted that Communist propaganda will play this to the hilt.

8. East Germany

We have been reporting recently 50X1  
in general terms that the East German  
government is increasingly uneasy over  
signs of popular discontent.

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NOTES

- A. On the eve of yesterday's action in the US House, the Dominican government had become so worked up over its sugar quota prospects that it suspended drawings from the \$25 million US loan. Ambassador Martin reports that "the Alianza, as of the moment, is at a dead stop."

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- C. Ghana feels it will reap more prestige from the World Peace Assembly opening in Accra tomorrow if the gathering steers clear of ideological extremes. The generally leftist orientation of the attending delegations gives pretty good assurance, however, that whatever emerges on the disarmament question will be more pleasing to Moscow than to us.

DOCUMENT OF INTEREST

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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE